

REMARKS

Applicants have elected, with traverse, claims 9-12. Applicants traverse the restriction requirement because under Rule 475, Applicants are entitled to have all of claims 9-16 examined by the Patent Office in this application. Rule 475(b) (2) reads, in pertinent part, as follows:

An international or a national stage application containing claims to different categories of invention will be considered to have unity of invention if the claims are drawn only to one of the following combinations of categories:

(2) A product and a process of use of said product....

(Emphasis added). According to the cited portion of Rule 475, if the claims are directed only to a "product" and "a process of use of said product", the Patent Office must, not may, treat the application as having unity invention. The Patent Office has no discretion in this matter, since the Rule specifically states that if the national stage application satisfies one of the conditions in Rule 475(b), the "national stage application ... will be considered to have unity of invention."

In this application, Applicants submit that Rule 475(b) (2) is satisfied. The claims in this application are directed only to either a bi-directional semiconductor component or a method of using such a component. That is, the claims are directed only to a "product and a process of use of said product." Accordingly, withdrawal of this restriction, and examination of all of claims 9-16, are respectfully requested.

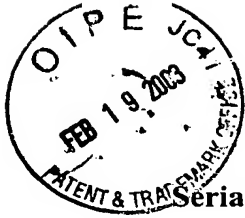
Respectfully submitted,

By: *Richard L. Mayer* (Reg. No. 22,490)

Dated: 2/11/03

By: *Richard L. Mayer*
Richard L. Mayer
Reg. No. 22,490

KENYON & KENYON
One Broadway
New York, NY 10004
(212) 425-7200



Serial No. 10/031,526

[10191/2231]

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In The Claims

The claims have been amended as set forth below:

15. (New) The method [ignition system] according to claim 14, wherein:
the time-staggered activation is performed by interconnecting a capacitor.
16. (New) The method [ignition system] according to claim 14, wherein:
the time-staggered activation is performed by a time control.

RECEIVED
FEB 24 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800